(b) The amount of edible oils imported since revision in duty have been as under:—

Month	Quantity (in Mts.)
January, 2000	3,78,832
February, 2000 (Prov.)	2,89,649

(c) The net availability of edible oils from indigenous sources in the current year i.e. 1999-2000 is estimated to be 64.78 LMTs.

(d) There is a gap between demand and availability of edible oils from domestic sources. In order to ensure availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to thbe ceonsumers, Government has allowed import of edible oi on O.G.L Government has recently raised the import duty on refined edible oils including RBD Palmolein from 16.5% to 27.5%, SAD @ 4% has also been made applicable. In addition import of crude edible oils has been subjected to actual user condition. The present import policy facilities the actual users namely manufacturers of refined oils and vanaspati to access the raw material at lower import duty while it discourages import by the traders and restrict indiscriminate import by them. In short, the present import policy has attempted to balance the interest of the consumers, farmers and processors.

New PDS policy

3681. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the new policy of Government regarding supply of different items under Public Distribution System;

(b) the details thereof item-wise and quantity-wise, per card holder; and

(c) by when, the new policy would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) In order to better targetise the food subsidy towards enhancing the food security to the people living below poverty line (BPL), the allocation of foodgrains to BPL families has been doubled from 10 Kg. to 20 Kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and to APL at economic cost *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000. The allocation for APL families has been maintained at the same level as fixed at t e time of introduction of TPDS in June, 97. Additional quantities of wheat

and rice, over and above the normal monthly allocation, if demanded by the States/UTs will be considered subject to availability and at economic cost.

W.e.f. 1.3.2000, Government has decided to allot levy sugar to States/ UTs on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.1999. Accordingly, the allotment of levy sugar has been enhanced. In case of North East and hilly States entitlement of levy sugar has also been increased from 425 gms. to 700 gms. per head per month. The income tax assesses and their family members will be excluded from PDS in respect of levy sugar allotment from July, 2000 onwards.

From February, 2000 onwards monthly allocation of imported RBD Palmolein is being made as per the demand intimated by States/UTs. Basis of allotmen jto the beneficiaries through the PDS outlets is fhxed by the States/ UTs themselves.

Allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e., past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Possible increase is given out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula under which higher allocation out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-stated disparity over a period of time. The distribution of kerosene and its monitoring within the State is the responsibility of concerned State Goverment. Government of India has insisted upon the State Governments identifying ration card holders having LPG connections for discontinuance supply of kerosene to them under PDS.

Difference between support price of wheat and rice and economic cost of FCI

†3682. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference between the support price of wheat and rice in the country and the economic cost of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the support price of wheat and rice in 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) the economic cost of wheat and rice of Food Corporation of India in the above years; and

(d) the economic cost assessed at present of the said foodgrains?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.